Compensation to the BSF bus bomb blast victims

*437. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much compensation was offered to the victims of Jammu and Kashmir bomb blast in a BSF bus;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to ensure the speedy and just delivery of the compensation package to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Relief is a State subject and the Government of J&K has been providing *ex-gratia* relief to the victims of militancy for death, injury, etc. As per the existing rules of the State Government, Rs. 1.00 lakh is paid to the next-of-kin (NoK) in case of death, Rs. 75,000/-, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1000/- for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively caused in a terrorist incident. Accordingly, drafts amounting to Rs. 17.10 lakhs being the payment @ Rs. 1.00 lakh each in respect of 17 civilians killed and Rs. 5,000/- each to the two injured in the bomb blast on 23.5.2004 in a BSF bus have already been sent to the concerned authorities by the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag for making payment to the NoKs. 14 BSF personnel were also killed in the bomb blast and their cases of *ex-gratia* payment @ Rs. 7.50 lakhs each have been sanctioned after identification of NoKs.

Modernisation of Indian Navy

*438. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to modernise the Indian Navy keeping in view the increased strategic and economic impor-

tance of Indian Ocean and hostile postures of some of its neighbours; and

(b) whether modern ships have been added to Indian Navy and aged ships have been phased out?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Modernization of the Indian Navy and review of the force level is an ongoing process keeping in view the prevailing security environment, threat perceptions, emerging technologies and availability of funds. The Indian Navy maintains an appropriate force level to meet the requirements of national security. A number of new projects have been approved by the Government to modernize the fleet. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) Decision to acquire an aircraft carrier.

(ii) Approval for indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS).

(iii) Approval for indigenous construction of 6 frigates and 3 destroyers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Induction of modern ships and decommissioning of the aged ships are continuous process in Indian Navy.

Increase in custodial deaths

*439. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the custodial deaths in various States are on increase;

(b) if so, the State-wise total number of custodial deaths that have occurred from 2003-04 to 2004-05;